

**FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program**



**Week 4 Summary**

1. Short-term-drought conditions return to the rainfed winter wheat and barley regions of northern Iraq. The first weeks of December showed some relief with minimal precipitation events. The cumulative precipitation for the winter crop season remains well below normal (Figure 1). SSMI satellite data shows that the region has returned to very dry conditions (Figure 2).
2. PRT advisors and Agricultural Planners in Diyala and At'Tamin have stated that conditions remain very dry. At' Tamin has an emerging wheat crop in the irrigated areas, which typically accounts for 125 000ha, but rainfed areas that account for approximately 150 000 ha were not planted. It was stated that the province expects a below average crop due to a combination of drought conditions and poor fertilizer usage.
3. Change detection analysis of AWiFS IRSP6 Maximum NDVI Composites for the months of November and December show no significant change in green vegetation between the two months (Images will be included in pre-lockup summary report).

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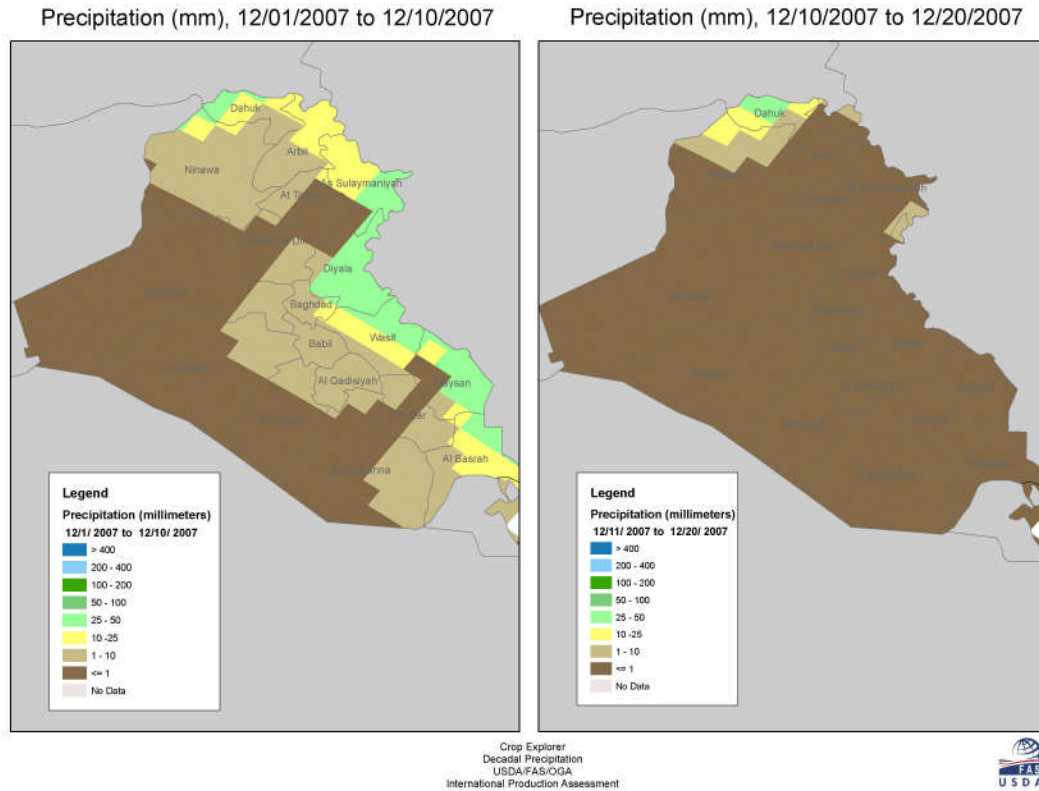


Figure 1: Northern rainfed winter grains regions return to drought conditions. Precipitation remains well below normal.

**Comparison of Weekly SSMI Satellite Data from December 17, 2007 to December 24, 2007**

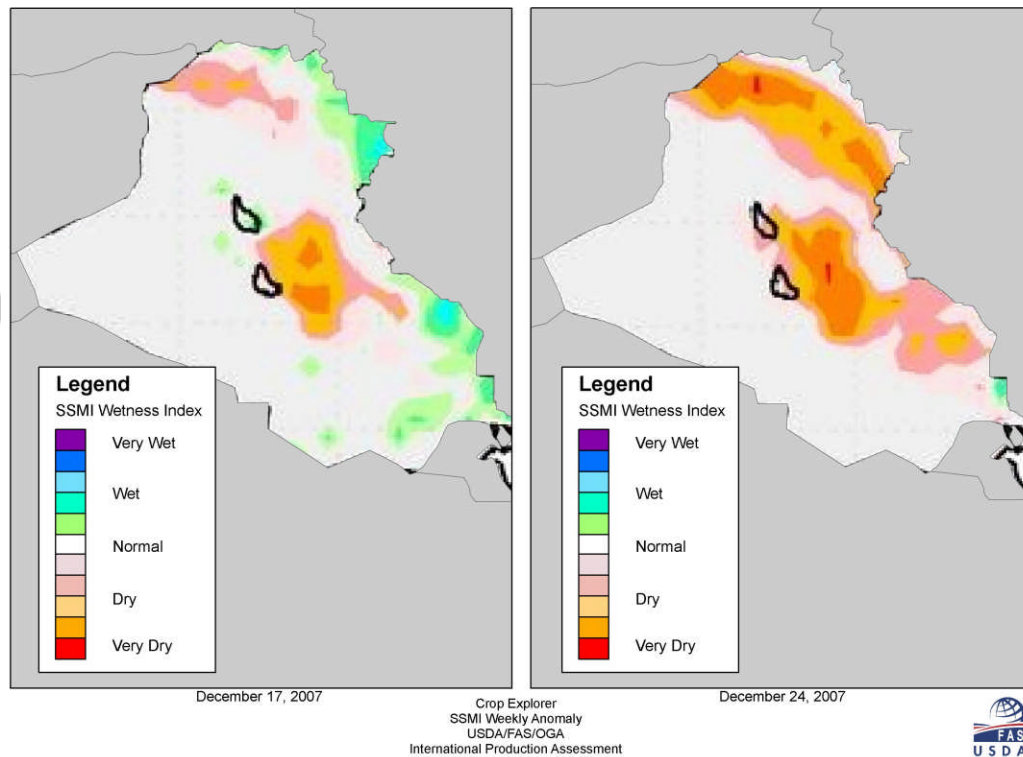


Figure 2: SSMI satellite data showing the return of very dry surface conditions.